

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 323

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the French Colonial Heritage Area in the State of Missouri as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 8, 2005

Mr. TALENT introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the French Colonial Heritage Area in the State of Missouri as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “French Colonial Herit-
5 age National Historic Site Study Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the French Colonial Heritage Area has
2 great historical significance as the home of two of
3 the five poteaux-en-terre (post in the ground)
4 vertical log French homes remaining in North Amer-
5 ica, dating from circa 1800, in addition to several
6 other important historical artifacts;

7 (2) the area is located within the Ste. Genevieve
8 National Historic District, and is adjacent to related
9 historic properties including the third North Amer-
10 ican poteaux-en-terre home, the “Le Grand Champ”
11 (common field used by French settlers), historic
12 downtown Ste. Genevieve, and a pre-historic Native
13 American village still evidenced by several ceremo-
14 nial mounds;

15 (3) the Area contains some of the only existing
16 examples of a French Colonial Period settlement,
17 which was characterized by contact that emphasized
18 integration with the local culture;

19 (4) local state agencies and organizations have
20 undertaken significant efforts to preserve the his-
21 toric architecture of Ste. Genevieve and convert it to
22 educational facilities devoted to the history of the
23 early French experience in the New World; and

24 (5) no current National Park System unit has
25 comparable historic features providing the cultural

1 backdrop required to adequately interpret the story
2 of the early French in the New World.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) AREA.—The term “Area” means the
6 French Colonial Heritage Area, which includes the
7 Bequette-Ribault, St. Gemme-Amoureux, and
8 Wilhawk homes, and the related and supporting his-
9 torical assets located in Ste. Genevieve County, Mis-
10 souri.

11 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
12 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
13 rector of the National Park Service.

14 **SEC. 4. STUDY.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the
16 date on which funds are made available to carry out this
17 Act, the Secretary shall, in consultation with the State of
18 Missouri—

19 (1) complete a study on the suitability and fea-
20 sibility of designating the Area as a unit of the Na-
21 tional Park System; and

22 (2) submit to the Committee on Resources of
23 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
24 Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a re-
25 port describing the findings of the study.

1 (b) CONTENTS.—The study under subsection (a)
2 shall be conducted in accordance with Public Law 91–383
3 (16 U.S.C. 1a–1 et seq.).

4 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
6 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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